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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

FEBRUARY, 1947

OUTLINE OF PLAN TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT
TO
MIGRATORY WORKERS ESSENTIAL TO FARM PRODUCTION IN NORTH AND
SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

Large numbers of migratory domestic workers find employment in seasonal crop production and harvest work in the North and South Central States. Cotton, tobacco, small fruits, tree fruits, sugar beets, sugar cane, rice, vegetables, canning crops and hybrid seed corn, provide the most extensive work opportunities. Patterns of migration vary but are influenced chiefly by the seasons. In general, workers move northward in the spring and summer months and return southward in late autumn for employment after harvest of crops in the North Central States. Most workers move in family units.

During World War II the demands of the armed forces and the opportunities for other employment so reduced the supply of available domestic workers that foreign workers under contract and prisoners of war, were used extensively. Since the war the number of domestic migratory agricultural workers is increasing.

The term migratory farm worker includes persons engaged in or seeking agricultural work who do not return to their usual place of residence each night.

GENERAL POLICY

Under the Emergency Farm Labor Program, beginning in 1943, the Cooperative Extension Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State agricultural colleges, is responsible for the domestic labor phases of the program "to assist in providing an adequate supply of agricultural labor for the production, harvesting and preparation for market of agricultural commodities essential to the orderly transition from war to peace." In performing this function, the Extension Service is desirous of facilitating the movement of such workers as are needed for agricultural production. It aims to supplement the efforts of agricultural producers to recruit workers and of agricultural workers to find employment. Both employers and workers will be encouraged to use their own initiative in making employment arrangements and in solving employment problems. Employment relationships which have proved satisfactory should be maintained.

The objective of the Extension Service is to facilitate the desirable movement and the efficient utilization of workers by collecting and distributing pertinent information. Assistance to employers of migratory workers will include the distribution of information to them regarding supply and movement of labor and other pertinent information about potential areas of recruitment and the type of living and working conditions that migrants desire. Assistance to migrants will include the distribution of information to them in regard to crop conditions and to the current and future employment opportunities in the North and South Central States.

PROCEDURE

The steps to be followed in 1947 in facilitating the movement of migratory workers in the North and South Central States are listed below:

In using the terms "State of need" and "State of supply," it must be recognized that each State using migratory workers is a "State of need" previous to and during the period when workers are employed in the State. Each State is also a "State of supply" previous to and at the time when migrant workers have completed their work in the State and are available for agricultural employment in other States.

1. The State extension services in States of need will determine the number of migratory workers needed in agriculture, in addition to workers available locally. They will make such determination for local areas and transmit regularly to the Federal Extension office at Little Rock current information for such areas, regarding: (a) Jobs to be done and crop conditions, (b) number of migratory workers needed, (c) period of employment, (d) wages offered, (e) housing available, and (f) other related matters which may be helpful in directing workers to local areas of employment. They will urge employers of migratory workers in each area to pool their needs and cooperate in the recruitment and utilization of the supply of workers available.

2. The State extension service in each State of supply will determine the time when migratory workers in the State will be completing their work and the approximate numbers that will be available for employment in other States. It will transmit regularly to the Federal Extension office at Little Rock information regarding: (a) Crop conditions and progress of the operation, (b) estimated numbers of migratory workers employed, (c) dates when they will be available for future employment, and (d) reports on the work plans of migrants that have been interviewed.

3. The State extension services will maintain information stations at strategic highway points, and provide facilities for overnight rest stops at appropriate stations. The purpose of these stations is to collect helpful information regarding the movement and to assist migratory workers en route. Personnel at these stations will distribute information regarding employment opportunities in areas of need, and record and report the movement of workers. Such reports will be furnished daily to the Federal Extension office at Little Rock.

4. The Federal Extension office at Little Rock will assemble and correlate pertinent information regarding employment situations, availability of workers, and progress of the movements. Timely information will be transmitted weekly to the States and information stations.

5. Extension Services of States of supply and the information stations will distribute to migratory workers information regarding current and future employment opportunities in succeeding areas of employment.

6. The extension services in the States of need will provide employers with information regarding the seasonal movement of migrants.

7. When the Federal Extension Service determines that additional information regarding employment opportunities is needed by workers, or that additional information regarding the supply of workers is needed by employers, representatives of extension services in States of need may visit areas of supply, when such visits are mutually agreed upon by the States involved. When employers of agricultural workers wish to visit potential recruitment areas, they will be urged to contact the Extension Service of such States to obtain further information before engaging in recruitment activity.

8. The State Extension Services will urge employers of migratory workers to provide housing, sanitary facilities, and living conditions which will conform to the laws of the State, and which will be attractive to migratory workers. To make employment in the area more attractive for migratory workers, employers will be encouraged to develop child care facilities, educational and recreational opportunities, and community acceptance for the workers and their families. The State Extension Services will develop an educational program to promote satisfactory employer-employee relationships, and encourage employers to provide patterns of employment for workers that will enable them to have a sequence of job opportunities.

KEY FOR USE BY STATE FARM LABOR OFFICES IN TRANSMITTING BY
WIRE TO LITTLE ROCK OFFICE WEEKLY MIGRANT INFORMATION

NAME AREAS

NAME CROPS NOW ACTIVE

1. Approximate number of migrants employed.
2. Approximate date of completion of job for majority of workers.
3. Approximate number of workers who may move to other areas on about date given in 2.

NAME CROP REQUIRING WORKERS

4. Period of employment - give beginning and ending dates for majority of workers needed.
5. Approximate number and type of workers needed from outside of area in addition to those with whom employers have already made arrangements.
6. Wages offered (give minimum if there is a range.)
7. Crop condition.

INFORMATION FOR WHOLE AREA

8. Amount and type of housing available in area.
9. Remarks.

SAMPLE WIRE TO E. C. McINNIS, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM WALTER COOPER,
ARKANSAS, ON JULY 1

AREA A - String beans one 300 two July 20 three none four now to July 20
five 100 family type six 2 cents per pound seven average Grapes four
July 15 to August 15 five none seven crop light and early eight vacancies
for needed families at Springdale camp nine bean workers will handle grapes.
Area C Blackberries one 600 two July 15 three 200 Area D peaches four
July 15 - August 5 five 3000 family type six 12 cents per bushel men
pickers 45 cents per hour women youth in packing sheds seven excellent but
late eight on farms mostly in tents, cots furnished. Area F cotton chopping
one 1000 nine work almost completed remaining workers have already made plans.

SAMPLE COPY FOR MIMEOGRAPHED LETTER TO BE ISSUED FROM
LITTLE ROCK OFFICE ON JULY 2

TO: State Farm Labor Supervisors North and South Central States

RE: Farm Jobs from Gulf to Great Lakes

WORKERS NEEDED NOW

500	Men only	Pea harvest	Minnesota	Area	C
300	Family type	Pick raspberries	Michigan	"	E
150	Men only	Pea harvest	Wisconsin	"	D
100	Family type	Pick beans	Arkansas	"	A
100	Single or family type	Pick cherries	Ohio	"	B

WORKERS NEEDED ABOUT JULY 8

500	Family type	Pick cherries	Michigan	"	C
200	Single or family type	Pick pickles	Indiana	"	D

WORKERS NEEDED ABOUT JULY 15

3000	Single or family type	Peach harvest	Arkansas	"	D
2500	Family type	Pick cherries	Michigan	"	A
2000	Family type	Pick cherries	Wisconsin	"	C
400	Single type	Hybrid seed corn	Iowa	"	A
200	Family type	Pick beans	Tennessee	"	A

ARKANSAS

Areas B, E, G -- not active

Area A -- Northwest Arkansas

One hundred additional family type workers needed now for bean picking. Wages 2 cents per pound. Housing available for all workers needed in the Springdale Labor Branch Camp. 300 migrants already working. Bean workers will shift to grapes between July 15 and 20 and no additional outside workers will be needed for grape harvest. Bean crop average -- Grapes early and light.

Area C -- Polk and Sevier Counties

600 migrants supplementing local help will complete blackberry picking about July 15. About that date 200 will be available to work in other areas.

Area D -- Nashville and Clarksville

3000 family type workers needed for peach harvest July 15 to August 5. Wages 12 cents per bushel for men who pick and 45 cents an hour for women and youth who work in packing sheds. Crop is excellent but about a week

later than usual. Housing for all workers needed is available on farms, mostly tents. Cots furnished but workers should bring bedding and utensils.

Area F -- Eastern Arkansas

Cotton chopping almost complete -- those still working have already made plans for further work.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
Farm Labor Program

Date _____

Information Station _____
Name? _____
Home Address? _____
Where last employed? _____
Immediate destination? _____
Second destination? _____

Crew leader . . .
Head of family _____
Other

Job _____
Type of job _____
Type of job _____
Type of job _____

Date of Arrival	Has Job
Yes	No

Yes No

Living Accommodation _____
Type of job _____
wanted? _____

Persons in Group		Travel Method		Living Accommodation		Number of years an agricultural migrant	
Men . .		Auto		Tent		Number of years worked in area of immediate destination	
Women .		Truck		House trailer			
Youth	14 under	Other		House truck .			
14-18	14	Racial Background		Bedding . . .		Migration to area influenced by	F.I. Office
Total-14 & older .		Anglo-Saxon .		Stove			Friends . . .
		Latin-Am . .		Cooking utensils . .			Farmers . . .
		Negro					Past Exp . . .
		Other					Other _____

